

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJ: NARCOTICS: MONTHLY DEVELOPMENT REPORT - ARGENTINA

NOV 1973

1. IN ANTICIPATION THAT THE GOA SOON WILL REVITALIZE AND REACTIVATE CONATON, ITS INTERMINISTERIAL POLICY MAKING BOARD FOR NARCOTICS, THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS ACTION COMMITTEE MET AT MID MONTH TO PLAN ITS SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES WITH THE BINATIONAL COMMISSION. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE A MEETING OF THE BINATIONAL COMMISSION, AT WHICH THE GENERAL GOALS IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS COOPERATION WOULD BE RESTATED. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY WORKING SESSIONS OF THE COORDINATION AND PLANNING GROUP TO FINISH DRAFTING DETAILS FOR THE UMBRELLA RESOLUTION UNDER WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WOULD BE SIGNED. THE APPROPRIATE PROAGS FEDERAL POLICY, CUSTOMS, AND BORDER PATROL SUPPORT WOULD FOLLOW. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT CONATON WOULD URGE THE GOA TO PASS PENDING LEGISLATION EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL NARCOTICS POLICE TO ALL OF ARGENTINA.

2. SEVERAL MEETINGS WERE HELD DURING THE MONTH TO EXAMINE WAYS TO AVOID THE PITFALLS THAT HAVE THUS FAR PLAGUED
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SUCCESSFUL USG ATTEMPTS AT EXTRADITION. BY CHANCE, AN

ARGENTINE ATTORNEY WHO IS AN EXTRADITION EXPERT TRAVELLED TO THE US ON PRIVATE BUSINESS AT MONTH END: ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR HIM TO CONTACT THE PROPOER WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES AND TO EXPLAIN THE MECHANICS, AS WELL AS THE LEGALITIES, OF THE EXTRADITION PROCESS FROM ARGENTINA.

3. DURING THE PERIOD OCT 25-NOV 24 THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED A TOTAL OF 23 PERSONS ARRESTED IN 11 SEPARATE ACTIONS. MOST INVOLVED POSSESSION OF COMPARATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF COCAINE, OR MARIHUANA; SEVERAL WERE POLYDRUG ARRESTS. HOWEVER, IN THREE CASES THE POLICE SEIZED SCALES AND OTHER PARAPHERNALIA INDICATING THAT THE VIOLATORS WERE ENGAGED IN RETAIL DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS.

4. THE LOCAL AMERICAN SCHOOL PREPARED TO CLOSE FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAY ON A HAPPY NOTE. THE SUPERINTENDENT ESTIMATED THAT OF THE 320 STUDENTS (80 PERCENT AMERICAN NATIONALS), ENROLLED IN GRADES 7 TO 12, HE DESCRIBED ONLY SIX STUDENTS AS "HEAVY USERS" OF MARIJUANA, A NUMBER WHICH HE ESTIMATES AS AN ALL TIME LOW. BASING HIS FUGURE ON ADVERSE CHANGES IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND PERSONALITY, AS WELL AS PERSONAL CONTACT, HE CREDITS THE SITUATION TO A LOW KEYED EDUCATION PROGRAM MAINLY IN THE SCIENCE CLASSES AND "A LOT OF LUCK". HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT PERHAPS HALF THE 7TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS WERE ONE TIME USERS OR OCCASIONAL EXPERIMENTERS WITH MARIJUANA. HE KNOWS OF NO CURRENT USE OF COCAINE OR OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS. THE EMBASSY IN GENERAL AND DEA IN PARTICULAR IS NOT AS SANGUINE AS THE SUPERINTENDENT AS TO THE NUMBER OF REGULAR USERS OR THE LIMITATION OF USE TO MARIJUANA. WE HAVE BEGUN AN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL AND DURING THE MONTH DEA SPECIAL AGENT PHILLIPS SHOWED THE FILM "THE PERFECT DRUG" TO GRADES 7 THROUGH 12. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A 90 MINUTE RAP SESSION AT WHAT THE SUPERINTENDENT DESCRIBED AS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER SCHOOL ASSEMBLY. WE WILL CONTINUE THE PROGRAM WHEN SCHOOL RESUMES.

5. FSO EDWARD B. ROSENTHAL ENTERED ON DUTY NOVEMBER 2 AS THE EMBASSY'S FIRST FULL TIME NARCOTICS COORDINATOR. KREBS

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